

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /088 W

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R 051450Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2651

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1320

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, GR

SUBJECT: GREECE'S POLITICAL FUTURE

1. FORMER FONMIN AVEROFF CALLED EMBASSY'S ATTENTION TO MARC MARCEAU ARTICLE APPEARING IN LE MONDE FEBRUARY 28. STORY PICKS UP VARIOUS RUMORS AND ASSERTS VARIOUS ALLIES, INCLUDING US, DISSATISFIED WITH PRESENT GREEK REGIME AND EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF POPULAR FRONT UNDER APOLITICAL PRIME MINISTER AND INCLUDING FOLLOWERS OF PAPANDREOU AND EVEN COMMUNISTS. AVEROFF ATTRIBUTED STORY TO CERTAIN YOUNGER OFFICERS IN GREEK MILITARY WHO WERE ANTI-AMERICAN AND TO FRENCH EFFORTS TO INCREASE FRENCH INFLUENCE IN GREECE AT EXPENSE OF U.S.

2. HE TOLD POLITICAL COUNSELOR THAT PRIOR TO PUBLICATION HE HAD BEEN QUERIED BY JOURNALISTS WHETHER STORY WAS ACCURATE, AT WHICH TIME IT HAD STRONGER ANTI-AMERICAN THRUST. HE HAD NOT ONLY DISCOUNTED ACCURACY BUT HAD ALSO TOLD FRENCH EMBASSY THAT STORY WITHOUT FOUNDATION. AVEROFF THOUGHT SITUATION BORE CAREFUL WATCHING AND CARRIED MISCHIEF-MAKING POTENTIAL FOR GREEK/US RELATIONS.

3. DEPT. WILL NOT STORY FOLLOWS PATTERN OF PLAN DESCRIBED TO AMBASSADOR BY PROFESSOR GREGORY CASSIMATIS (ATHENS 1033 AND A-50).

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4. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION TO CONFIRM

AVEROFF'S ALLEGATION THAT YOUNGER GREEK OFFICERS PROMPTED
STORY. IN VIEW OF MARCEAU'S DEVIOUS PAST STORY COULD
HAVE BEEN PLANTED BY OTHERS WHO HAVE THEIR OWN POLITICAL
IRONS IN THE FIRE.
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